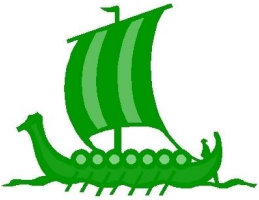


Wittersham Church of England Primary School

'On a voyage of discovery: learning and growing together in the light of God'



**Welcome to the
Wittersham Weekly!
Friday 26th September 2025**



Wittersham Weekly – Term 1, Week 5

As we race towards the end of Term 1, we are all looking forward to our Harvest Celebration on Monday at 9am in the church. Everyone is warmly welcome to join us.

This year, we will be supporting the British Red Cross with our donations. The Red Cross provides vital help to people in crisis both here in the UK and around the world, offering emergency support, disaster relief, and care to those most in need. Donations will be collected in buckets at the church. Children are also welcome to bring a small financial contribution that they can place in the collection when they arrive.

Our beautiful Harvest art will also be displayed in the church. We already have some superb submissions from across the school which will make the church look even more special for our celebration. Any further contributions can be brought directly to the church on Monday morning.

The fish tank has continued to bring much joy this week. Although a few fish were unwell, our aquatics expert, Mr Bull, kindly visited and provided special treatment. The majority of the fish are thriving, and it is wonderful to see them swimming happily as we go about our school day.

Year 6 enjoyed their first school trip of the year with a visit to Godinton House, where they developed their grid coordinate skills. Godinton House is a stunning Jacobean house set in beautiful gardens, and all year groups will have the opportunity to visit during the year – so please look out for your child's letter.

Mr Hawkins was away for three days this week completing updated first aid qualifications to ensure that all children and adults at Wittersham have access to the best care if needed. We missed him very much, but I think this week's sports club – which I ran myself – was one of the best so far!!!

Our new Reception children have begun their Reception Baseline Assessments (RBA). These are short, age-appropriate activities in maths, language and communication, carried out in a very relaxed way to help us understand each child's starting points. The children have impressed us already with their confidence and skills.

Looking ahead, next week will be a busy one. The whole school will be taking part in the nasal flu vaccination programme administered by the NHS team. We also have our phonics workshops led by Mrs Scott, which will give families practical strategies for supporting early reading at home. In addition, we will begin our celebration of Black History Month, and I look forward to sharing more about this with you in next week's newsletter.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend, and I very much look forward to seeing you in church on Monday for our Harvest Celebration. Take care, Mrs Coulson

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation

Harvest Prayer

Loving God,
We thank you for the gift of harvest,
for the food we eat,
the people who grow it,
and the beauty of creation all around us.

As we celebrate together,
we remember those who do not have
enough.

Bless our gifts to the Red Cross,
so they may bring comfort, care and hope
to people in times of need,
both near and far.

Help us to share generously,
to show compassion to others,
and to live with grateful hearts.

Amen.



Attendance and Punctuality

At Wittersham Church of England Primary School, we are committed to supporting every child's learning and development. Regular attendance and punctuality are essential in helping children make the most of their time in school and achieve their full potential.

The school gate closes at 8:45am. Any child arriving after this time will need to sign in at the office, and this will be recorded as late. Being consistently late not only disrupts learning for the child but also for the class as a whole. Over the coming weeks, we will be arranging meetings with families of pupils who are persistently late to explore ways we can work together to improve punctuality.

Remember, our Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am and is a great way to ensure children arrive on time and are settled, ready for the day ahead. We do understand that challenges can sometimes make regular attendance or punctuality difficult. If you are experiencing difficulties, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our School Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Sterriker-Rhodes, is available to offer support and guidance to help overcome any barriers.

Together, we can make sure every child has the very best start to each school day.

Here are the latest attendance figures for the school:

Windmills	Smugglers	Vikings	Oxney	Rother
96.93%	96.95%	94.32%	91.18%	96.26%

Whole school: 95.1%

Whole School Target: 96%

Compassion

Courage

Cooperation



HARVEST CELEBRATION ART



Create a piece of Harvest art for our celebration!



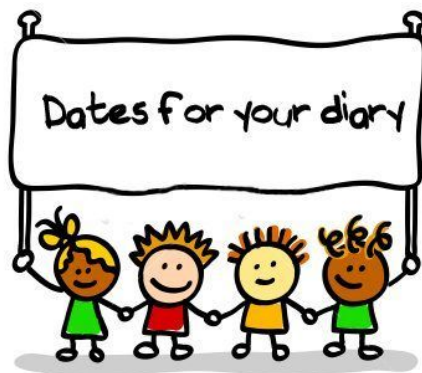
Please bring your art into school by Monday 29th September

House points will be awarded!



This is optional – be as creative as you like!





Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- **Monday 29th September** - Harvest Festival @9am all welcome to attend the Church service.
- **Wednesday 1st October** - Flu Nasal Spray
- **Wednesday 1st October** - Phonics Workshop for KS1 Parents @14:45
- **Thursday 2nd October** - Phonics Workshop for KS1 Parents @08:45
- **Wednesday 8th October** - Coffee, Cake and a Catch Up @14:00
- **Thursday 9th October** - Individual School Photos
- **Thursday 16th October** - Last day of Term 1
- **Friday 17th October** - INSET Day (School Closed for Pupils)
- **Monday 20th - Friday 31st October** - Half Term.
- **Monday 3rd November** - Start of Term 2
- **Wednesday 5th November** - Whole School Parents Evening PM

 Please mark these dates in your calendars as we look forward to a busy and exciting term ahead!



Free school meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.



Some schools in Kent manage their own Free Schools Meals application process. For more information, go to:

kent.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



Local events and news!



THE MUSIC WELL IN RYE,
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE:



A fabulous CHILDREN/STUDENT'S SINGING CLUB

Taking place at the HUB on RYE HILL
on MONDAYS, 4-5pm, term-time.



OPEN to ALL Children and Students in Years R – Y11,
attending any local schools in the Rye area and beyond, or
being home schooled.

*This is an exciting musical opportunity for children and young people, and is
fun, friendly and fully inclusive. Everyone is welcome.*



Singing Teacher is Mrs. Marian Ham, a local music and piano teacher,
and a semi-retired Primary School Head Teacher.

For a joining form and more information, please email
Marian on dmham128@btinternet.com

This opportunity is supported financially The Music Well CIC as well as
welcoming donations wherever possible.

Enjoy viewing the Music Well's website: www.themusicwell.org.uk

Have your say on the draft Ashford Local Plan 2042

Ashford Borough Council is now consulting on the draft Local Plan (known as Regulation 18) which sets the council's proposed approach and direction of travel for a number of planning matters for development up to 2042.

Consultation runs until 5pm on Monday 13th October 2025.

View our draft Local Plan in person

We are holding a series of events where you can come and view the draft Local Plan. Simply 'drop in' to any of the following events. If you can't attend 'in person' we are also holding one virtual event:



Venue	Date	Time
Ashford Cinema, Elwick Road, Ashford, TN23 1AE	Thursday 11 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Tenterden Leisure Centre, Recreation Ground Road, Tenterden, TN30 6RA	Tuesday 16 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Kingsnorth Village Hall, Church Hill, Kingsnorth, TN23 3EF	Friday 19 September 2025	4 - 8pm
Sandyacres Sports & Social Club, Sandyhurst Lane, Ashford, TN25 4NT	Tuesday 23 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Mersham Village Hall, Church Road, Mersham, TN25 6NU	Thursday 25 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Wye Village Hall, Bridge Street, Wye, TN25 5EA	Monday 29 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Virtual Event via Microsoft Teams	Thursday 2 October 2025	5 - 6.15pm

To find out more visit: www.ashford.gov.uk/emerging-local-plan



RYE YOUTH RUGBY

TAG & TOUCH RUGBY TRAINING SESSIONS

EVERY SATURDAY FROM
20TH SEPTEMBER @12.30PM

We Welcome Boys & Girls
Ages 8 to 13 years
to come join us!

Everyone's Included!!! Non-Contact form of
the game, have fun & make new Friends
while learning all the basic skills of Rugby

Why should your child play Rugby?

- Confidence & Self-Esteem
- Teamwork & Social Skills
- Hand-Eye Coordination
- Fun & Enjoyment
- Physical Fitness



want to know more?
CONTACT THEO 07888822667
youth.ryerugby@gmail.com